

PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF ST. GEORGE CALLS FOR MORE ENERGY CONSERVATION AS TEMPERATURES SOAR

St. George- Extended high temperatures are straining the power grid. High temperatures adversely affect the efficiency of an electric transmission system. The high night temperatures don't allow equipment to cool and recover from the heat of the day, adding to the strain on the system. Because other areas in the west are also experiencing high temperatures, the market price for energy is exceptionally high.

To avoid exposure to the high market prices, the City of St. George is running all of its internal generation. "With the internal generation and pre-purchases the city can cover approximately 167 MW of city's electrical load" said Laurie Mangum, City of St. George Resource Planner, "if the demand goes higher than 167 MW in any given hour, energy will have to be purchased on the market."

Area utilities have been working together with the State PowerForward office to issue daily alerts as a way of letting customers know when conservation can help relieve the demand on the power grid. Alert status is based on a number of factors:

- ✍ Projected energy load
- ✍ Market Prices
- ✍ Overall demand on the electrical grid

"We're probably closer now to issuing a 'Red Alert' than any time since we launched the Power Forward campaign in 2000," Glade Sowards Energy Program Coordinator with the Utah Division of Air Quality said.

The Washington county area continues to be experiencing Yellow alert days. We are asking our customers to reduce their electric use, particularly through the peak hours of the day from noon until 8:00 pm, with the hours of 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm being the most critical.

Some easy ways to conserve are listed below:

- ✍ Set the thermostat to 78 degrees and use fans to move the air around, this uses less electricity while maintaining the comfort level of the room.
- ✍ Close the drapes to reduce the amount of heat from the sun coming into the building.

- ✦ Run the dishwasher and washing machine with full loads, if possible during the non-peak hours of the day.
- ✦ Turn off lights and electrical appliances when not in use.
- ✦ Avoid using the oven to prepare food, use the microwave or outdoor grill.
- ✦ Consider improving the efficiency of your home by adding insulation, weather-stripping, high efficiency windows etc.

Area utilities working together with our customers we can reduce overall strain on the system. This will help us avoid issuing a Red alert status.